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County Borough of Southend-on-Sea

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

and

THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

For the Year 1942



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I have the honour to present an interim report on the work of the Department during 1942, compiled in accordance with Ministry of Health Circulars 2064 and 2773. As instructed, statistics relating to population are not reported. To afford comparisons with previous years certain "rates" are included, but caution is necessary in drawing conclusions from them because it is probable that changes have occurred in the total population under review, and its age and sex constitution.

To secure economy in printing and paper, much of the detail reported in pre-war years has been omitted, but mention has been made of topics of current interest.

As the maternal mortality and infant mortality rates are based on the total births and total live births respectively they do provide a valid basis for comparison with previous years.

The maternal mortality rate of 5.07 per 1,000 births is a matter of concern even when the considerations mentioned later in the report are borne in mind. On the other hand, the infant mortality rate of 33 per thousand live births as compared with the national rate of 49 affords a very welcome contrast.

J. STEVENSON LOGAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1942.

POPULATION—

Census 1931 (prior to extension of the Borough on October 1st, 1933)	120,093
At mid-year, 1939, as estimated by Registrar General	137,800

LIVE BIRTHS—

Birth Rate per 1,000 residents	15.49
Illegitimate Birth Rate per 1,000 residents ... ..	.84

STILL BIRTHS—

Still Births—legitimate per 1,000 residents59
„ „ —illegitimate per 1,000 residents013

DEATHS—

Death Rate per 1,000	16.18*
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MATERNAL MORTALITY—

From Sepsis per 1,000 births	1.69
From other causes per 1,000 births	3.38
Total per 1,000 births	5.07

INFANT MORTALITY RATE—

All infants per 1,000 live births	32.54
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	29.77
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	80.65

Zymotic death rate per 1,000 population03
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* This figure is a "crude" rate. For purposes of comparison allowance has to be made for differences in the age and sex

constitution of the local population as compared with that obtaining in the country as a whole. This is done by multiplying the "crude" rate by a "comparability factor" supplied by the Registrar General.

In the years immediately prior to the war the factor was .91, by applying which a corrected rate of 14.72 per 1,000 is obtained. The latest comparability factor available is .84 for 1940; this, if applied, would give a "corrected" rate of 13.59 per 1,000.

The following table, based on that issued by the Registrar General, is given for comparison:—

	Annual Rate per 1,000 living		Deaths under one year to 1,000 births
	Live Births	Deaths from all causes	
England and Wales	15.8	11.6	49
126 County Boroughs and great towns ...	17.3	13.3	59
148 Smaller Towns	18.4	12.1	46
London	14.0	13.9	60
Southend-on-Sea	15.5	16.18	33

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Dr. J. Kean, seconded to the Notts County Council since June 2nd, 1940, resigned on June 24th, 1942, on appointment to the permanent staff of that Authority. Dr. Gladys Margaret Spencer, Assistant M.O.H. and S.M.O., Worcester, was appointed Assistant M.O. and S.M.O. on December 16th, 1942.

Dr. Bernard Blaxill, Medical Officer-in-charge of one of the Infant Welfare Clinics, resigned after being on leave of absence since 1940.

Mr. L. E. Edwards, Chief Sanitary Inspector, returned on January 19th, 1942, after a long period of sick leave, and we heard with profound regret that Sgt. F. A. Brown, R.A.F.V.R., an Assistant Sanitary Inspector, had been killed with his wife and daughter during an air-raid on April 25th, 1942.

Miss M. O'Connor (May 18th, 1942) and Miss A. E. Penfold (May 26th, 1942) were appointed Health Visitors and School Nurses, and Miss W. M. Randall, Municipal Midwife, was re-called for duty as from February 2nd, 1942.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Examinations of throat swabs, blood specimens for Widal reaction, faeces for pathogens, sputa for tubercle bacilli, and the routine water analyses continued to be performed at the Borough Sanatorium Laboratory. Pathological specimens from the Municipal Hospital were examined at the E.P.H.S. Laboratory at St. Andrew's Hospital, Billericay. Towards the end of the year discussions took place with Professor S. P. Bedson, F.R.S., and the

Secretary of the Southend General Hospital, with the object of transferring much of this work to the laboratory at the Southend General Hospital and re-opening the small laboratory at the Municipal Hospital.

Specimens in connection with the Venereal Diseases Treatment Scheme continued to be sent for examination by Dr. Arthur Davies at the Dreadnought Hospital, and samples of water and milk to Dr. E. V. Suckling at Gidea Park.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

These remained unaltered.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

The service provided by the Southend General Hospital was in great demand, both by reason of the shortage of hospital beds and the increased difficulty of caring for the sick in their homes consequent on the disruption of home life and the mobilisation of women for industry and national service. The staff of two district nurses was increased to three as from August 8th, 1942, the Council grant in aid being adjusted accordingly. Shoeburyness remained outside the arrangements, and the activities of the Shoeburyness Nursing Association which ceased in 1940 were not revived.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

1. *Infant Clinics.*—These were held at 2.15 p.m. as under:—

Shoeburyness:

Caulfield Road First Aid Post. 1st and 3rd Thursdays.

Leigh-on-Sea:

West Leigh First Aid Post. Mondays.

Southend-on-Sea:

Municipal Health Centre. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Eastwood: Eastwood Schools—as from December 11th, 1942.

2nd and 4th Fridays.

The Eastwood Clinic, at which no Medical Officer attends, was begun on the suggestion of the Health Visitor in charge of that area, a scattered one, where public transport is not very convenient, and these new facilities were welcomed. The clinic was held in an old schoolroom placed at the disposal of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee by the Education Committee, an action which was much appreciated.

National Dried Milk and Vitamin preparations supplied by the Ministry of Food, as well as proprietary brands of dried milk, were on sale at all infant welfare sessions, and at Shoeburyness they were available in the weeks when no clinic was held.

Particulars of attendances are:—

	Southend	South- church	Leigh	Shoebury- ness	East- wood	Total
No. of sessions held ...	52	104	49	24	1	230
No. of individuals who attended and who at end of year were—						
Under 1 ...	206	204	205	79	4	698
Aged 1 to 5... ..	356	554	374	130	6	1,420
Totals	562	758	579	209	10	2,118
Total attendances of—						
Infants	2,502	3,253	3,087	807	11	9,660
Children 1 to 5 ...	597	1,197	722	348	6	2,870
No. of children aged 1 to 5 subjected to routine medical inspections ...	276	410	211	82	—	979

Packets of National Dried Milk distributed totalled 11,253.

Vitamin Preparations:—Cod Liver Oil, 6,801.
Fruit Juice, 4,493.
Fruit Puree, 19,688.
Fruit Syrup, 3,847.

2. *Ante-natal Clinics.*—At Southend there was a clinic each Wednesday afternoon, with an occasional additional session on Friday afternoons, and at Shoeburyness and West Leigh First Aid Posts on the afternoon and morning respectively of the first Friday in each month.

The special clinic each Wednesday morning for mothers who were to be confined at Runwell or the Municipal Hospital was continued. This clinic was conducted by the Resident Obstetric Officer, who took over the supervision of these patients during the last month of their pregnancy, and saw some of the mothers post-natally. A beginning was thus made to remove the criticism that the obstetrician responsible for the confinements did not supervise them ante-natally.

The weekly Ante-natal Clinic at the Southend General Hospital, which is open to both Borough and County patients, was held each Wednesday afternoon. Patients attending thereat were admitted to Runwell E.M.S. Unit or the Municipal Hospital.

Attendances at the Council's Clinics were as follows:—

	Southend	Leigh	Shoebury- ness	Totals
No. of sessions held	118	8	8	134
No. of individual expectant mothers ...	382	72	71	525
No. of attendances of expectant mothers	1,554	184	133	1,871
No. of attendances (additional to above) at Obstetric Officer's Clinic	747	—	—	—

3. *Venereal Diseases Treatment Centre*.—The following is the return for 1942, Service cases excluded:—

	Syphilis		Gonorrhœa		Conditions other than Venereal		Totals	
	M'ls.	F'ls.	M'ls.	F'ls.	M'ls.	F'ls.	M'ls.	F'ls.
Number under treatment on January 1st	52	42	36	21	14	12	102	75
Number returned after cessation of attendance in previous years	4	1	8	2	—	—	12	3
Number dealt with for first time:—								
(a) who had not previously attended any Centre ...	14	9	42	40	90	49	146	98
(b) who had attended other Centres	112	3	175	1	78	4	365	8
Total under treatment during 1942	182	55	261	64	182	65	625	184
Discharged after completion of treatment and tests for cure	2	1	76	4	98	46	176	51
Ceased to attend before completion of treatment	7	2	8	9	—	—	15	11
Ceased to attend after completion of treatment but before final tests for cure	5	—	6	4	—	—	11	4
Transferred to other Centres ...	129	6	150	7	77	11	356	24
Number under treatment on December 31st, 1942	39	46	21	40	7	8	67	94

No cases of soft chancre came under review.

Clinic attendances of civilians were:—

	Clinic Attendances		Intermediate Attendances	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Syphilis	1,213	1,142	—	—
Soft Chancre	—	—	—	—
Gonorrhœa	1,044	573	547	6
Other Patients	376	380	—	—
Totals ...	2,633	2,095	547	6

The following are the Civilian totals for previous years:—

New Patients suffering	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
From Syphilis	63	38	31	22	40	34	21	24	40	23
„ Gonorrhoea	118	131	129	88	107	127	83	61	78	82
„ Soft Chancre	7	5	3	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total Attendances ...	7182	6606	6221	5991	8564	9768	9472	2846	3319	3345

HOSPITALS.

The chief feature of the year was the adjustments made in hospital policy as a result of the growing demand for in-patient treatment to be given in the hospitals ordinarily serving the area.

Southend General Hospital.—In spite of the additional financial obligations arising from their action, the Board of Management opened another 50 beds on February 1st, bringing the total available number up to 150, of which 35 were reserved for E.M.S. patients. The total number of admissions was 2,474; 1,729 major operations were performed, and the total of new out-patients was 12,611, an increase of 8 per cent.

Southend Municipal Hospital.—The Chairman of the Health Committee took back the proposals submitted to the Council in December, 1941, involving the opening of the new buildings and providing a total of 314 beds.

After further consultation with the Ministry of Health, the scheme was re-submitted in January, 1942, and rejected. It was clear that the Council were influenced by two considerations. One was the situation as regards secondary education. With the strongest official support the Education Committee had resisted pressure to re-establish secondary education facilities in the Borough, and it was felt that most of the reasons which made this decision a proper one, also constituted valid arguments for not opening up additional hospital beds in Southend. The other factor was the absence of any agreement with the County Council as to the terms upon which Essex patients were to be admitted to the new wards. In making plans for the extensions, which have cost £420,921, it had been assumed that a quarter of all the beds in the hospital would be occupied by County patients, but since the suspension of negotiations in 1939 no further progress towards a satisfactory arrangement had been made.

In February a modified scheme to provide a total of 230 beds, which entailed opening new ward buildings and closing certain older hospital wards, and bringing into use the new kitchens, admis-

sion unit, administrative buildings and mortuary, was accepted in principle by the Council. The Scheme involved substantial works of protection and black-out, together with certain minor alterations to sanitary fittings so as to permit the use by adult patients of the children's block, which in the circumstances then obtaining was not wholly required for child patients.

The Council instructed the Health Committee to prepare fresh proposals for a new user agreement with the Essex County Council, and it was made clear that the Scheme was not to be put into operation without further authority. A considerable amount of work went to the preparation of the proposals for a new agreement, under which the Corporation would have continued to accept County Council patients from the Rochford Hundred, allocating the beds in accordance with the ratio of the respective populations, and would have provided additional accommodation up to the maximum development of the hospital site to meet the needs of both the County Borough and the adjoining County areas. The basis previously suggested by the County Council, namely, that the Corporation should provide the capital and the County Council pay a bed rental, was incorporated in the proposals, which the latter were subsequently unable to accept.

In July the Council decided that the Maternity Unit, established at Runwell E.M.S. Hospital since June, 1940, should return to Rochford, a decision to which several factors contributed. The accommodation at Runwell had several serious disadvantages. Women increasingly objected to the inconveniences entailed, particularly the necessity of entering the Unit on the expected date of confinement instead of waiting at home (as is the practice of patients admitted to Rochford) until labour actually began, and there was a growing tendency for patients booked for Runwell to wait until the onset of labour left no alternative but their admission as emergencies to Rochford. Finally, the increasing scarcity of midwifery staff made it impossible to provide adequate staffs at both hospitals.

The work of the hospital continued to grow, and by the end of the year the following beds were provided at the Hospital: General, 190; Mental, 30; Tuberculosis, 22; Maternity, 30. The total admissions, including new births but excluding mental cases, were 2,151, an increase of 1,050 as compared with the previous year.

During the year the work of providing protection and black-out to the new buildings proceeded, in spite of the scarcity of labour and materials.

Borough Sanatorium.—The Borough Sanatorium for Infectious Diseases continued to be organised as in the previous year—bed isolation replacing the pre-evacuation practice of providing separate wards for individual diseases. In these circumstances the absence of a cubicle block was a severe handicap, calling for the exercise of considerable administrative ability on the part of the Medical Staff and a high standard of nursing discipline and skill.

The following statistics have been submitted by the Medical Superintendent:—

	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	Polomyelitis	Anterior Typhoid	Whooping Cough	Measles	Scabies	Others*	Totals
Remaining on 31/12/1941 ...	3	4	—	1	—	1	—	—	3	12
Admitted during the year ...	70	41	7	2	4	7	3	48	56	238
Discharged during the year ...	71	40	7	3	3	7	2	47	58	238
Died during the year...	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Remaining on 31/12/42 ...	2	4	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	10

* Other conditions, 56, included: Ophthalmia, 4; Meningismus, 1; Acute Aseptic Meningitis, 1; Dysentery, 1; Enteritis, 2; Prostatitis, 1; T.B. Meningitis, 1; Carrier Hæmolytic Streptococci, 3; Impetigo, 2; Admitted with Child, 2; Bacterial Endocarditis, 1; Mumps, 2; Croup, 1; Tonsillitis, 8; Retention of Urine, 1; Staphylococcal Septicæmia, 1; Vincents Angina, 5; Staphylococcal Dermatitis, 1; Cavernous Sinus Thrombosis, 1; Subarachnoid Hæmorrhage, 1; Pneumococcal Meningitis, 1; Purpura, 1; Toxic Erythema, 1; Chicken Pox, 1; Typhoid Contact, 4; Perineal Abscess, 1.

Service Cases included in the above: Scarlet Fever, 4; Diphtheria, 13; Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, 6; Chicken Pox, 1; Tonsillitis, 4; Enteritis, 2; Vincents Angina, 1; T.B. Meningitis, 1; Pneumococcal Meningitis, 1; Meningismus, 1.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum: There is a high standard of notification of this condition. Four cases were severe enough to require in-patient treatment, the remainder, where necessary, being treated as out-patients. No damage to sight resulted in any case.

DEATHS.

Diphtheria: Age 6 months. Laryngeal diphtheria. Died several hours after tracheotomy. Post-mortem—lungs almost totally consolidated. Intestinal intussusception, probably due to child's effort to overcome respiratory obstruction.

Typhoid: F.23. Hypostatic pneumonia and femoral thrombosis in third week. Died on 46th day, apparently from thrombosis or embolus in mid-brain or pons; no lesion found post-mortem.

T.B. Meningitis: M.25.

Pneumococcal Meningitis: M.23.

Cavernous Sinus Thrombosis: M.12. Admitted with meningeal symptoms. Rapidly developed signs of cavernous sinus thrombosis and died within 24 hours. Had had treatment for nasal polypus day before admission.

OTHER CASES OF NOTE:

Typhoid: M.37, F.35, M.4½—mother, father and son. Typhoid bacillus, Type C., isolated. Father was a lorry driver, who visited various parts of country, where he might have been infected. History of pneumonic illness 13 years earlier, when possibility of

typhoid had been raised but never fully established. His first symptoms occurred on August 19th, 1942, and as the others were admitted on July 21st, 1942, and July 28th, 1942, the sequence of events is difficult to establish.

Perinephric Abscess: F.54. Admitted as (?) subacute appendix, (?) typhoid fever. Tumid slightly tender abdomen, with indefinite macular rash. Agglutination Positive 1/50. Typhosus H. Definite signs of perinephric abscess later developed. Transferred, death following drainage of abscess. No post-mortem.

Bacterial Endocarditis: F.28. Admitted with symptoms suggesting acute meningitis. Later diagnosed embolus from old endocarditis. Blood cultures gave a growth of streptococcus viridans. Made apparently good recovery on treatment with sulphadiazine. Seen six months later in good health, but later history not known.

Retention of Urine: M.64. Symptomology suggested encephalitis, but condition apparently due to retention of urine from enlarged prostate.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

Notices of Intention to Practice were received from eleven midwives, including seven whole-time Municipal domiciliary midwives. Of the private midwives only three did any maternity work, and only one acted as a midwife. Private midwives attended six patients as midwives and 45 as maternity nurses.

No cases of serious infringement of the Rules of the C.M.B. came to notice.

Payment for Medical Aid for Midwives:

Medical Aid was summoned on 116 occasions, or in 28.2 per cent. of cases attended by midwives. A total of £166 10s. 0d. was paid to Medical Practitioners, of which £69 3s. 0d. was refunded by patients.

At the beginning of the year six wholetime domiciliary midwives were employed in the Borough; one was re-called for duty as from February 2nd, 1942, and seven were employed at the end of the year.

The total of fees paid for their services was £891 1s. 3d., and £19 4s. 6d. was written off as irrecoverable. No charge was made in 22 cases.

The numbers of cases attended by them were:—

	Cases attended as Midwives		Cases attended as Maternity Nurses	
	Labours	Miscarriages	Labours	Miscarriages
Cases booked by Municipal Midwives and delivered by them	397	2	99	3
Cases where no ar- rangement for con- finement had been made and Municipal Midwives were sum- moned in an emer- gency	8	—	2	1
Totals ...	405	2	101	4

Number of visits paid: Ante-natal, 4,339; morning nursings, 6,702; evening nursings, 1,482; total, 12,523.

Unmarried Mothers.—The local Diocesan shelter was used as a Remand Home, and no unmarried mothers were accommodated there at the expense of the Council. Arrangements were made to send two mothers to Bartletts, Great Baddow, and two to the Diocesan Maternity Home, Coggeshall, at a total cost of £38.

Maternal Mortality.—The maternal mortality figures as supplied by the Registrar General give a rate from all causes of 5.07 per 1,000 live births. This high and regrettable rate is no doubt attributable in part to three cases. One patient died from subacute bacterial endocarditis, seven days after giving birth to twins; a second, known to suffer from mitral disease and admitted with signs of cardiac decompensation, died 33 days after Cæsarian Section, post-mortem examination revealing the cause of death as infective endocarditis, pulmonary infarct, and pneumonia. The third, who also suffered from mitral disease, was admitted to hospital because of this condition, and a surgical induction was performed three weeks later. The patient had a retained placenta, and collapsed suddenly and died. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that heart disease was the prime cause of death in all three instances. A death from sepsis occurred in an unmarried mother, who concealed her condition and entered a maternity home in another part of the country.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—Three notifications were received. All the patients were admitted to the Municipal Hospital and all recovered.

Registration of Nursing Homes.—No registered Nursing Homes were open during the year. Enquiries were made regarding the conduct of two establishments.

Work of Health Visitors.

No. of infants noted for visiting (including new arrivals from other towns)	1,111
„ infants visited for the first time	1,074
„ infants visited	1,223
„ visits to infants under one year	5,734
„ children visited between 1 to 5 years	3,322
„ visits to children between 1 year and 5 years of age	7,954
„ expectant mothers visited for first time	642
„ expectant mothers visited	685
„ visits to expectant mothers	1,352

Infant Life Protection.

No. on Registrar on December 31st, 1942:

Foster Mothers... ..	32
Foster Children	36
No. of Reception Notices received... ..	54
„ Notices of Death	—
„ Notices of Removal of Children	36
„ Notices re removal of Foster Mothers:—	
(a) To other addresses inside the Borough	4
(b) To other addresses outside the Borough	—
„ visits paid by Health Visitors	305

Boarded-out Children.

No. of foster mothers on December 31st, 1942	7
„ children	9
„ visits paid by Health Visitors	38

CARE OF YOUNG CHILDREN OF WOMEN WAR WORKERS.

Following receipt of Ministry of Health Circular 2388 in June, 1941, the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee gave much thought to this problem. From time to time various representations were received as to the need for War-time Nurseries, and steps were taken to ascertain whether there existed a sound basis for action in regard to women employed in both industry and agriculture. These measures included enquiries from employers of labour, women's organizations, clergy and ministers of religion, welfare workers, and consultations with the officials of the Ministry of Labour and National Service. In one instance a list of names of women willing to enter employment was submitted to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, and detailed enquiries of each were made by the Health Visitors.

It was clear that conditions in the County Borough were completely different from those obtaining in industrial centres, and sufficient evidence as to need was not obtained. To deal with even the small number of likely applicants a full range of provision, including an all-age war-time nursery and after-school supervision for the over fives would have been required. The topography of the Borough and the scattered location of the homes of potential recruits to employment would have entailed the reduplication of facilities in a most uneconomic manner. The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee felt that it was hardly in keeping with the responsibilities

entrusted to them to encourage the separations of young infants from their mothers, and had a need for war-time nurseries been established they were inclined to consider restricting provisions to children over the age of two years.

Towards the end of the year it was agreed to hold discussions with the Education Committee regarding a division of function between the two Committees in respect of any provision which was subsequently shown to be necessary.

Members of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee paid a visit to the war-time nurseries established by the Borough of Hampstead, and a good deal of time was occupied in a search for premises suitable for adaptation as war-time nurseries should these subsequently prove necessary. All enquiries showed that it would be very difficult to find buildings suitable for this purpose.

The Ministry of Labour and National Service did not consider it necessary to introduce the Registered Daily Minders Scheme in this area. A register of women willing to act as daily minders was kept by the Maternity and Child Welfare Department, and in one or two instances use was made of it, but as very few women volunteered for this work little of practical value resulted.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—The Southend Waterworks Company supplies the greater part of the Borough, the Shoeburyness district being served by the Council's undertaking at Shoebury. The former supply is derived from the rivers Blackwater, Chelmer and Ter, the latter from two deep boreholes. Both supplies are chlorinated, and constant bacteriological examinations showed each to be satisfactory.

Sanitary Inspection.

Complaints received and attended to	752
Complaints referred to Highways Department	25
Frivolous complaints received	26
Nuisances detected without complaint	379
Nuisances abated on Notice	375
Nuisances abated without Notices	403
Preliminary notices served	348
Notices not complied with, but being dealt with	62
Houses affected by Notice	372
Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts	1,901
Houses: Number inspected under Housing Acts	46
Visits of inspection made during the detection and abatement of nuisances	4,870

Work done in connection with Drainage of Premises.

Houses, drains tested:—

After infectious diseases	4
By request, on payment of fee	3
On complaint or alteration of drainage	34
Number of houses re-drained	6
Number of houses, drains repaired	55
Total length of drain tested with water	628 feet
New inspection chambers built	26
New gullies fixed	52

New covers to inspection chambers provided	39
Inspection chambers rendered	29
New soil pipes provided	18
New W.C. pans and traps fixed	44
New flushing cisterns provided	38
New lavatory basins provided	9
W.C.'s made open risers	2
New W.C.'s erected	27
New baths provided	4
New sink waste pipes provided	17

Housing. There was no housing shortage during the year.

Unfit Houses: The position at the end of the year was as follows:—

Original Programme:

Dealt with	15.
Remaining to be dealt with	5.
Persons displaced	39. Remaining 10.

Supplemental:

Dealt with	Houses	23.	Vans, etc.,	116.
Remaining	"	3.	" "	Nil.
Persons displaced	"	96.	" "	406. Remaining 14.

Not included in programmes:

Dealt with	"	25.	" "	5.
Remaining	"	Nil.	" "	Nil.
Persons displaced	"	67.	" "	10.

THE FOLLOWING DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED AND IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT.

Defective flushing cisterns repaired...	30
W.C.'s floors paved	10
Blocked drains cleared	347
New sinks provided	5
Defective gutters repaired	27
Defective rain-water pipes repaired	22
Defective roofs repaired	42
Yards paved or repaired	11
New floors to houses	69
Cement plinths provided to houses	6
Scullery floors re-laid and repaired	10
Stoves repaired or renewed	25
Copper furnaces repaired	7
New sanitary dustbins provided	48
New gutters provided	4
Sash cords renewed	50
Walls to houses rendered	3
Air bricks provided	50
Rooms measured as to overcrowding	235
Overcrowding in rooms abated	5

With Respect to Dirty Houses.

Houses cleansed	12
Rooms cleansed	76
Ceilings cleansed	40
Dirty W.C. pans cleansed	19
W.C. apartments cleansed	13

*In Connection with Water Supply—**The following work has been carried out:—*

Houses re-connected with Water Company's mains	...	...	...	30
Number of water samples taken for analysis	...	...	...	234
„ „ wells filled in	...	...	...	2
„ „ visits of inspection regarding water supplies	...	...	...	140

In Respect of Keeping Animals.

Removal of animals improperly kept	...	...	...	...	5
Stables, yards paved or repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Pig styes cleansed and lime-washed	...	...	...	...	3
Inspection of piggeries	45

Schools.

Schools, sanitary conveniences, inspections	103
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Particulars as to Enquiries with Respect to Infectious Diseases.

Enquiries <i>re</i> Infectious Diseases	242
„ „ Smallpox Contacts	...	...	...	...	15
„ „ other contacts	...	...	...	...	41
Inspections under Scabies Order	...	...	...	...	10

Miscellaneous.

Smoke observations	...	...	...	...	17
Cesspools, emptied and filled in	...	...	...	...	2
„ inspections	...	...	...	...	65
Marine Store dealers' premises inspections	...	...	...	...	8
Stables, inspections	...	...	...	...	75
Public-house urinals, inspections	...	...	...	...	93
Houseboats, inspections	...	...	...	...	2
Number of visits made for the supervision of persons under the Mental Deficiency Acts	...	...	...	...	190
Number of enquiries made in respect of Pharmacy and Poisons Act	...	...	...	...	28
Number of enquires made in respect of Location of Retail Business Order	...	...	...	...	257

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

A.—THE MILK SUPPLY.

The following table shows the number of premises, inspections, and notices served during the year:—

Nature of Premises.	No. of Premises.	No. of Inspections.	No. of Notices Served.
Cowsheds	11	100	2
Dairies	25	243	1

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

Licences were issued by the Council pursuant to this Order as follows:—

	No. of Premises Licensed.
To produce Accredited Milk	5
To distribute Accredited Milk	6
To bottle and distribute Tuberculin Tested Milk	1
To distribute Tuberculin Tested Milk, bottled in the Borough, 6; bottled outside Borough, 1	7
To Pasteurise Milk	2

Twenty-seven samples of Accredited Milk, 12 samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk and 13 samples of Pasteurised Milk were submitted for examination, and of these 2 samples of Accredited Milk and 1 of Tuberculin Tested Milk failed to comply with the standards.

B.—MEAT.

Slaughter of Animals Act.—Seven applications were received for the renewal of licences to slaughter animals in slaughterhouses in the Borough, all of which were renewed.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations.—The following table shows the carcasses inspected and condemned during the year:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1335	283	1390	3796	1401
Number inspected	1335	283	1390	3796	1401
All diseases except tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	8	3	13	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	113	29	4	21	8
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	8.6	13.	.5	.9	.6
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	43	—	—	9
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	120	76	3	—	73
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	9.2	42	.2	—	5.8

The inspectors paid 219 visits to slaughterhouses during the year.

C.—UN SOUND FOOD.

In addition to the carcasses, etc., condemned at slaughterhouses, 2,202 lbs. of meat, 2,591 tins of foodstuffs, and 269 stone of fish were surrendered as being unsound during the year.

Inspection of Food Premises.

Number of visits of inspection made to:

Bakehouses	257
Butchers' shops	1,244
Fish shops	322
Greengrocers	117
Restaurants, cafes, etc.	331
Other food premises	466

D.—FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The number of samples submitted to the Public Analyst was 502 (180 formal and 122 informal), and of these 10 (5 formal and 5 informal) were reported to be non-genuine, viz., 2 formal and 1 informal samples of Egg Powder, 1 formal and 1 informal samples

each of Egg Substitute Powder, Oranjeast and Onion Juice, and 1 informal sample of Camphorated Oil. Prosecutions were taken in respect of three articles, and some account of the proceedings is given below. The other non-genuine samples were dealt with by cautions.

“ Oranjeast.”—The Analyst reported that he obtained evidence of only traces of citric acid and reducing sugars in the sample of the above product, and concluded that the amount of oranges used in the manufacture was so small as to make the description on the label misleading. Summonses were issued against the Retailers for giving a label calculated to mislead, and they availed themselves of Section 83 of the Act to bring the Manufacturers before the Court on the ground that the contravention of the Act was due to the act or default of the Manufacturers. The Retailers did not contest the analyses, but relied on correspondence with the Manufacturers to establish that they had exercised due diligence, while the Manufacturers contended that the label was not misleading.

The Bench, after hearing separately the cases against the Retailers and the Manufacturers, adjourned the matter for six weeks, and then recorded a conviction against each of the Defendants, and imposed on each a fine of £20 0s. 0d. and £10 10s. 0d. costs. Both Defendants appealed, and at Southend Quarter Sessions on October 31st both Appeals were allowed by the Recorder, and the Corporation were ordered to pay the costs of the Defendants at Quarter Sessions and a sum of £31 10s. 0d. towards their costs before the Magistrates.

Egg Substitute Powder.—The Analyst reported that a sample of this product contained 5.2 per cent. total carbon di-oxide and 4.5 per cent. available carbon di-oxide. The Corporation summoned the Retailers, who, in turn, summoned the Wholesalers, while the latter summoned the Manufacturers. The Retailers and the Wholesalers were acquitted, and the case against the Manufacturers was found to be proved, and was dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Act on payment of £15 15s. 0d. costs.

Onion Juice.—A sample of Onion Juice was certified to contain only 0.16 per cent. of solid matter and 0.04 per cent. of mineral salts, natural sugars being absent. A summons against the Retailer was issued on the grounds that the article was not of the quality demanded. Ultimately, no fewer than five other Defendants were joined in the case by the operation of Section 83 of the Act. The Bench convicted the fifth Defendant, fining him £100 and ordering him to pay 90 guineas towards the costs of the Corporation and the other parties in equal shares. In default of payment the Bench imposed a sentence of three months' imprisonment with hard labour. The Defendant appealed, and at the Borough Quarter Sessions the Recorder found that an offence had been committed, that the Appellant had exercised due diligence, that the default lay with one of the Defendants, who had been before the Magistrates, but was not a party to the Appeal, and allowed the Appeal, quashing the conviction, but making no order as to the costs of the Appeal.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACTS.

Tuberculosis Order, 1938.—Three notifications have been received of milch cows suspected to be suffering from Tuberculosis from two of the Dairy Farms in the County Borough. The animals were dealt with by the Veterinary Inspectors of the Ministry, being removed from the farms for slaughter, and upon post-mortem examination two were found to be affected with “advanced tuberculosis” and one with “tuberculosis, not advanced.”

Sheep Double Dipping Order, 1920.—Three hundred and twenty sheep and lambs were double-dipped during the year as required by the above Order.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.—Sixty complaints were received and dealt with during the year. Three hundred and sixty-five visits were made during the year in administering the Act.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of cases of infectious diseases (civilian) notified during the year is shown below:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	113
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Typhoid	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	130
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	122
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	154
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Total							593

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION.

Efforts were made locally to take advantage of the publicity campaign conducted by the Ministry of Health. The Education Committee and the Head Teachers assisted in every way possible, and towards the end of the year the Health Visitors devoted much attention to popularising the practice in accordance with the suggestions contained in Circular 2713.

Ad hoc clinics were held weekly as under:—

Municipal Health Centre, Fridays throughout the year.

“ “ “ “ Tuesdays, from 20/10/42.

Borough Sanatorium, Mondays, until October.

West Leigh F.A.P., Thursdays, from 22/10/42.

Caulfield Road F.A.P., Mondays, from 19/10/42.

The antigens employed were: (a) Children under 11 years, A.P.T. (supplied by the Ministry of Health), doses 0.2cc. and 0.5cc. at four-weekly intervals (b) Children over 11 years,

T.A.F. (Burroughs Wellcome), 1.0cc., three injections at fortnightly intervals. Reactions were absent in the majority of cases, and where these did occur they were usually insignificant.

Preliminary Schick Testing was performed only on children over the age of 11 years, as the experience of previous years showed that below this age the number of negative reactors in our population was very small. Posterior Schick Testing was not done as a routine, but following the publication of work done in other areas which indicated that certain antigens had produced an unsatisfactory "conversion" rate two schools were selected for posterior Schicking. These were the only centres where the same "batch" of antigen had been used for all children throughout. No control test was performed, but the slightest indication of a reaction was recorded as positive. Of 106 tests performed and subsequently read, only 7 were positive, a "conversion" rate of 93.4 per cent. In addition, 1,061 children treated with antigens of various "batches" were tested at the Municipal Health Centre and 23 positive reactions observed, a Schick "conversion" rate of 97.8 per cent.

Many of our children had been immunised in other areas, and efforts were made to ascertain the individuals so treated.

During the year 1,182 children under 5 and 1,061 between 5 and 15 years received a full course of treatment, a total of 2,243; in addition, 215 either defaulted or were in course of being treated at the end of the year. Owing to evacuation precise figures of the child population were not available, but it was estimated that at the end of the year 33.3 per cent. of the under 5's and 29.7 per cent. of the 5 to 15 group had been immunised.

No case of diphtheria was notified as occurring in any child known to have received immunisation treatment.

Several cases of diphtheria occurred in children resident in the Public Assistance Institution, and the Public Assistance Committee readily agreed to suggestions whereby immunisation treatment was offered to all children then resident or subsequently admitted.

The publicity campaign provoked a good deal of anti-immunisation propaganda, chiefly by house-to-house distribution of leaflets, and in the opinion of the Health Visitors this resulted in a material number of refusals of treatment. It is, however, quite possible that many of those who gave this as a reason for refusing treatment were in reality rationalising their own unwillingness to make the effort necessary to protect their children. No attempt was made publicly to counter this propaganda, as it was felt that the opponents of immunisation indulge in discussion, not to ascertain the truth about this matter, but only to obtain material for further publicity.

SCABIES.

Total number of cases ascertained	...	...	...	...	...	479
Number of primary cases reported	...	...	...	...	...	222
Average number of cases per primary case	...	...	...	...	...	2.15

In addition to the 479 cases among the civilian population 38 cases were reported as occurring in Service personnel in civilian billets.

No. of cases treated at		
(a) School Clinic ...	...	112 (336 attendances for treatment)
(b) Borough Sanatorium		
In-patients ...	...	48
Out-patients ...	...	46
Total ..		<u>206</u>

During 1942 Benzyl Benzoate was substituted for Sulphur as a routine treatment.

CANCER.

A total of 232 deaths attributable to Cancer were registered, the primary sites of the disease being as follows:—

	Males.	Females.
Skin ...	1	1
Lips, cheek, floor of mouth, tongue, etc. ...	7	3
Tonsils, pharynx... ..	—	—
Larynx, Bronchus, Lung, Mediastinum ...	26	2
Œsophagus ...	8	1
Stomach ...	18	18
Colon ...	12	17
Small intestine ...	—	1
Rectum ...	13	9
Gall bladder, liver ...	2	1
Pancreas ...	4	4
Ovary ...	—	6
Uterus ...	—	12
Vulva ...	—	1
Breast ...	—	29
Prostate ...	11	—
Kidney ...	2	—
Bladder ...	7	2
Brain ...	2	2
Miscellaneous or not ascertained ..	5	6
Totals ...	<u>118</u>	<u>115</u>

The primary sites of the disease in the six persons under 35 years whose deaths were attributed to Cancer were as follows:—

	Age.
Males: Sarcoma of kidney ...	11
Carcinoma of Colon ...	34
Females: Carcinoma of stomach ...	32
Carcinoma of Œsophagus ...	34
Carcinoma of small intestine ...	33
Glioma of brain ...	33

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of all new cases of Tuberculosis and of all deaths from this cause during 1942:—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	3	2	6	4	—	—	—	—
15	22	23	4	3	—	—	—	—
25	18	7	—	—	12	16	3	—
35	16	7	1	—	—	—	—	—
45	13	7	—	—	14	2	—	1
55	10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	1	5	—	—	5	2	—	—
and upwards								
Totals	83	52	11	7	31	20	3	1

The number of cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the Notification Register on December 31st was as follows:—

	Pulmonary				Non-Pulmonary				Total				Grand Total
	Adults		Children		Adults		Children		Adults		Children		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
1942	175	144	5	2	18	6	9	13	193	150	14	15	872
1941	128	113	2	—	16	2	4	9	144	115	6	9	274
1940	104	100	1	—	9	2	—	5	113	102	1	5	221
1939	200	178	3	5	12	5	11	20	212	183	14	25	484

Institutional Treatment was provided under the Council's Scheme for 137 patients as under:—

PULMONARY				Adults		Children		Total
				M	F	M	F	
Municipal Hospital	...	...	...	30	31	—	—	61
Benenden	...	...	...	14	14	—	—	28
Grosvenor	...	...	...	11	9	—	—	20
Preston Hall	...	...	...	3	—	—	—	3
Papworth	...	...	...	5	—	—	—	5
Scotton Banks	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	1
Black Notley	...	.	...	—	—	—	1	1
Brompton	...	...	...	1	1	—	—	2
Marillac	...	...	...	—	2	—	—	2
Harold Court	...	...	...	—	2	—	—	2
East Anglian	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	2
Merivale	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	1
Southern Hospital, Dartford	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1
Langdon Hills	...	...	...	1	1	1	—	3
Totals ...				68	62	1	1	132
NON-PULMONARY								
Lord Mayor Treloar Cripples' Hospital	...	...	...	—	—	2	—	2
St. Vincent's Orthopaedic Hospital	...	...	...	—	—	1	1	2
Broomfield Court	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1
Southend Municipal Hospital	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	1
Totals ...				1	1	3	1	6
Grand Total ...				69	62	4	2	137

Extent of Residential Treatment provided during 1942:—

	In Institutions on Jan. 1st	Admitted during the Year	Discharged during the Year	Died in Institutions	In Institutions on Dec. 31st
PULMONARY					
M	19	49	42	4	22
F	15	46	34	4	23
Children	—	2	—	—	2
NON-PULMONARY					
M	1	—	1	—	—
F	1	—	1	—	—
Children	3	1	—	1	3
Total	39	98	78	9	50

Return showing the work of the Dispensary during the year 1942:—

	Pulmonary				Non-Pulmonary				Total				Grand Total
	Adults		Children		Adults		Children		Adults		Children		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
A.—NEW CASES examined during the year (excluding contacts):—													
(a) Definitely tuberculous	60	40	3	2	2	2	5	2	62	42	8	4	116
(b) Diagnosis not completed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Non-tuberculous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	70	51	8	11	140
B.—CONTACTS examined during the year:—													
(a) Definitely tuberculous	1	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	1	6
(b) Diagnosis not completed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Non-tuberculous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	19	18	20	61
C.—CASES written off the Dispensary Register as:—													
(a) Recovered	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	3
(b) Non-tuberculous (including any such cases previously diagnosed and entered on the Dispensary Register as tuberculous)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
D.—NUMBER OF PERSONS on Dispensary Register on December 31st:—													
(a) Definitely tuberculous	175	144	5	2	18	6	9	13	193	150	14	15	372
(b) Diagnosis not completed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

1. Number of persons on Dispensary Register on January 1st 274
2. Number of cases transferred from other areas and cases returned after discharge under Head 3 in previous years 62
3. Number of cases transferred to other areas, cases not desiring further assistance under the scheme, and cases "lost sight of" 23
4. Cases written off during the year as Dead (all causes) 54
5. Number of attendances at the Dispensary (including Contacts) 2,141
6. Number of visits by Tuberculosis Officer to Homes (including personal consultations) 80
7. Number of visits by Nurses or Health Visitors to Homes for dispensary purposes 692
8. Number of (a) Specimens of sputum, etc., examined 162
(b) X-ray examinations made in connection with dispensary work 493 films and 768 screenings
9. Number of "Recovered" cases restored to Dispensary Register and included in A (a) and A (b) above —
10. Number of T.B. plus cases on Dispensary Register on 31st December 220

TREND OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS DURING THE FIVE YEARS 1938-1942.

It is a commonplace that Tuberculosis increases during war-time, and the national figures published shew that during 1941 there was an increase of 11% and 9% in the incidence of pulmonary Tuberculosis in males and females respectively.

As has already been observed changes have taken place in the total of our population and in its age and sex constitution. The following tables analyse the new cases of pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the last five years, and shew what percentage of the total notifications occurred in the various age groups:—

TABLE SHOWING NOTIFICATIONS OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS RECEIVED 1942 CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

Age Group	1938		1939		1940		1941		1942	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	—	3	2
15	11	21	15	14	12	16	10	14	22	23
25	12	27	11	20	10	8	20	18	18	7
35	17	11	14	10	8	5	18	9	16	7
45	15	9	16	5	8	4	12	3	13	7
55	8	3	11	4	9	4	6	4	10	1
65	2	1	3	—	1	—	—	—	1	5
Totals	66	73	72	54	50	39	67	48	83	52

TABLE SHOWING PERCENTAGE OF NOTIFICATIONS OF
PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS RECEIVED IN EACH AGE GROUP.

Age Group	MALES					FEMALES				
	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	1.5	2.8	4	1.5	3.6	1.4	1.9	5.1	—	3.7
15	16.7	20.8	24	14.9	26.5	28.7	25.9	41	29.1	44.4
25	18.2	15.3	20	29.8	21.7	37	37	20.5	37.5	13.5
35	25.8	19.4	16	26.8	19.3	15.1	18.5	12.8	18.7	13.5
45	22.7	22.2	16	18	15.7	12.3	9.3	10.3	6.3	13.5
55	12.1	15.3	18	9	12.	4.1	7.4	10.3	8.4	1.9
65	3	4.2	2	—	1.2	1.4	—	—	—	9.5

In making any deductions certain factors have to be borne in mind. The total notifications for 1938 and 1943 are nearly the same, namely, 141 and 135 respectively, but the preponderance of females, 5 in 1938, has been altered to the disadvantage of the males, who in 1942 exceeded female notifications by 31. This excess of male cases over female cases has occurred in each of the years since 1938, and is most marked for 1942.

The operation of the National Service Acts and the mobilization of labour has caused a loss in the age groups 20—40, for men and women of these ages are now in the Services or in industry in other parts of the country.

On the other hand, the operation of the National Service Acts is selective, for the Medical Boards have full particulars of patients who have attended the Tuberculosis Dispensaries, and are diligent to reject those with bad histories. The effect of this is, of course, to leave in the civilian population those elements likely to produce new notifications. Furthermore, by 1942 men and women from the Services who had been found to be suffering from pulmonary Tuberculosis were returning to civil life in sufficient numbers to affect the new notifications during 1942.

In the absence of precise statistics, any conclusions must be tentative, but it does appear that the incidence of pulmonary Tuberculosis shewed a tendency to increase during 1942, and that the adolescent and young adult is the chief sufferer, as can be seen from the fact that in 1938 the male age group 15—25 provided 16.7% of new male notifications, and in 1942 the same age group

represented 26.5% of new notifications. In the female age group the difference is even more striking, being 28.7% in 1938 and 44.4% in 1942.

In contrast the experience of the next age group, viz., 25—35, provided a small increase in male notifications, 18.2% in 1938 and 21.7% in 1942, while the females shewed a marked fall, being 37% in 1938 and only 13.5% in the later year.

Owing to the relatively small numbers under review it is misleading to attach too much importance to the differences revealed in the foregoing table, but it is perhaps not without significance that the notifications in the 5—15 age group have usually been proportionately higher during the war years, a difference to be observed in both the male and female experience.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS.

No. on Register at end of Year	...	...	M. 130
			F. 116
			—
	Total	...	246
			—

Institutional Care as on December 31st, 1942:—

(a) By M.D. Committee:

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Royal Eastern Counties Institution	35	26	61
Besford Court	1	—	1
Royal Earlswood	3	2	5
Hortham Colony	1	4	5
Princess Christian's Farm Colony	2	1	3
Stretton Hall (Leicester)	1	—	1
Stoke Park Colony	1	—	1
Pewsey Coloney (Wilts)	1	—	1
Harmston Hall (Leicester)	1	—	1
Royal Fort Home (Bristol)	—	1	1
St. Joseph's Certified Institution (Sheffield)	—	1	1
Home of the Good Shepherd (Exeter)	—	1	1
St. Theresa's Certified Institution (Lewisham)	—	2	2
Botleys Park	—	1	1
Southend Municipal Hospital	3	2	5
Rochford House Public Assistance Institution	1	—	1
Other P.A.Is. (Evacuated)	—	2	2
Total	50	43	93

(b) By Relatives and Others:

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Royal Eastern Counties Institution	3	3	6
Royal Earlswood	1	—	1
Mutual Sanatoria (Billericay)	1	—	1
Evacuated to Hospitals and P.A.Is.	7	7	14

Institutional care provided during 1942 for seven patients, five males and two females, as follows:—

Royal Eastern Counties Institution	...	...	...	2
Princess Christian's Farm Colony	...	...	...	2
Hortham	...	...	...	1
Harmston Hall	...	...	...	1

One patient transferred from Hortham to Royal Fort Home.

One patient transferred from St. Raphael's (Barvin Park) to Runwell under Lunacy Act.

Two patients died in Certified Institutions—R.E.C.I. and Botleys Park.

One patient died at Runwell E.M.S. Hospital evacuated from Municipal Hospital.

One patient discharged from Besford Court by Board of Control.

Three Orders lapsed by operation of Law. In one case a Petition for a fresh Order was dismissed.

One patient committed to Rochford House as a Place of Safety.

Two patients sent on licence during the year.

One patient re-called from licence.

At the end of the year there were five male and three female patients on licence from Certified Institutions.

Guardianship.—Two patients were placed under Guardianship, and at the end of the year there were four male and one female patients under guardianship.

	M.	F.	T.
<i>Supervision.</i> —At end of year: Statutory	41	36	77
Voluntary	21	22	43

BLIND PERSONS ACTS, 1920-38.

Register, 1942.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Number on Register on 1st January, 1942	91	122	213
Number no longer blind	2	—	2
Died during the year	5	5	10
Left Borough during the year	3	2	5
Removed from Register as untraced	—	1	1
Re-admitted to Register as traced	1	—	1
Newly-registered during the year	1	18	19
Removed from other areas during year	4	5	9
Number on Register on 31st December, 1942	87	137	224

At the end of the year there were 17 blind persons at the Hostel at Writtle, 40 were privately evacuated, and 23 were in Homes and Institutions outside the Borough.

Employment.—There were three Home Workers engaged in hand-knitting, basket-making and boot-repairing. One woman obtained employment in a factory for the blind and discontinued her work as a Home Worker for machine-knitting. At the end of the year one woman and two men were doing war-work in a factory ordinarily employing only sighted workers.

Periodicals.—Newspapers and magazines in Braille and Moon type were circulated to blind readers. Eight titles were supplied by the Statutory Committee and three were free gifts from America.

Wireless.—One wireless set was received from the British “Wireless for the Blind” Fund.

The coal allowance was increased from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. a week, and as from October, 1942, the maximum domiciliary assistance for a single person was increased from 27s. 6d. to 30s.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER FOR THE YEAR 1942.

STAFF OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

The whole-time Staff consisted of the Medical Officer of Health, the Deputy Medical Officer of Health, and Assistant Medical Officer, School Medical Officer, Deputy School Medical Officer, and Assistant School Medical Officer respectively, a senior School Dentist, eight School Nurses, who are also Health Visitors, a School Clinic Nurse, and a dental attendant. The School Dentist and Dental Attendant ceased to be employed part-time by the Essex County Council as from June 15th.

The part-time officers were the Ophthalmic Surgeon, the specialist Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon, and the Orthopædic Specialist Surgeon. The posts of Superintendent of the Remedial Treatment Centre and Speech Therapist remained vacant. For part of the year Dr. A. D. E. Bayliss acted as part-time Assistant School Medical Officer until the appointment of Dr. Gladys Margaret Spencer on November 16th.

Evacuation.

The arrangements for the voluntary evacuation of individual children as described in last year's report were continued, although the numbers availing themselves of the scheme became progressively fewer.

The Regional Commissioner's Order requiring the compulsory registration of children returning to the town also remained in force. A full account was given in the Report for 1941 of the arrangements made for the inspection and subsequent "follow up" where necessary of these children. Its purpose was to maintain an up-to-date record of the state of the child population in regard to medical defects, whether temporary or permanent, so as to afford accurate knowledge of the medical problems involved in the event of compulsory evacuation.

As time went on it became apparent that, as far as temporary defects were concerned, the records could no longer give an accurate picture of the conditions prevailing from day to day, but it was decided to keep the system in operation because it provided valuable information, firstly, as to the state of health and cleanliness of the children on their return from the Reception Areas, and, secondly, as to the return to the Borough of children with permanent defects, that is to say the physical and mental defectives, and those with minor orthopædic or other defects of a semi-permanent character not classifiable as Physically Defective children.

Medical Arrangements in the Reception Areas.

The arrangements formerly described continued to work satisfactorily. The progressive return of children from the Reception Areas, which made possible the closing of the Branch of the Education Office at Derby in February, reduced considerably the volume of work under this heading.

Medical and Dental Inspection.

The augmentation of the available whole-time staff by the part-time services of a general medical practitioner made it possible to carry on Routine Medical Inspection throughout the year, and it was not found necessary to resume the less satisfactory practice of holding nutritional surveys which was followed during 1941.

At first children in all age-groups were examined, although attention was principally directed to new entrants. Following the receipt of Circular 1,604 of the Board of Education in August, the examination of the intermediate age group was discontinued and only entrants and leavers were routinely inspected. Facilities for the special examination of children in any age group were available either during an inspection at School or at the School Clinic.

The results of nutritional assessment of the children examined when compared with the figures for 1938, the last normal year, show an apparent deterioration, which is rather disturbing at first sight, viz.:—

1938: A, 22.3%; B, 67.4%; C, 10.2%.

1942: A, 15.8%; B, 68.9%; C, 15.3%.

It will be seen that while the percentage of normal nutrition B remained approximately the same, there was an apparent shift from A to B and from B to C.

In evaluating these results it should be borne in mind that the numbers on which the 1942 percentages are based are much smaller, viz., 2,759, as compared with 4,685 in 1938. Moreover, the 1942 figures are the collated results of three medical officers, only one of whom was engaged in examining Southend children in 1938. In assessing fine differences of nutrition the clinical impressions of individual examiners necessarily vary; the same child might be regarded by one examiner as a poor "B" and by another as a good "C." It should be noted, however, that no case of bad nutrition "D" was recorded, and it is worthy of record that the observed differences from peace-time standards only became apparent when the collected statistics were analysed. The examiners did not notice any general signs of deterioration in the condition of the children as a whole, and there was no evidence of any increase in the incidence of conditions associated with debility and nervous strain.

Although the trend of future events will call for careful observation, one hesitates to advance the conclusion that there has been any real deterioration in the general standard of nutrition,

Dental inspection was carried out regularly throughout the year.

Provision of Milk and Meals.

Difficulty was again experienced in obtaining straws and one-third pint bottles of milk, and it was necessary to continue the arrangements described in last year's report, but the supply of crockery became somewhat easier.

Facilities for a mid-day meal were available to the children at all the schools. By the end of the year there were five school canteens in operation, twelve schools were being supplied with meals in heated containers from the Community Feeding Centres, and in the case of schools adjacent to Civic Restaurants the children attended the restaurants under the supervision of teachers.

Arrangements for Treatment.

(1) *Malnutrition.*—Free milk and meals are available to necessitous children, whether on medical recommendation or on purely economic grounds. On account of the supply situation the standard issue of milk had to be limited to one-third of a pint per diem, but where there was any surplus milk by reason of absences from school it was distributed in the afternoon to those children who were having milk on medical recommendation.

(2) *Minor Ailments.*—The Inspection Clinic and Minor Ailments Treatment Centre at the Municipal Health Centre were continued as in previous years. It was not found possible to re-open the additional clinics at Leigh, Eastwood, and Shoeburyness.

(3) *Uncleanliness, Scabies, and Verminous Conditions.*—There was a slight improvement in the incidence of verminous conditions compared with the previous year, and this must be regarded as quite satisfactory in view of the increasing employment of women in industry.

The prevalence of Scabies continued to be a major source of trouble, and the arrangements for dealing with it were substantially the same as in previous years. Extended use was made of members of the Civil Defence Casualty Services working under the direction of the School Clinic Nurse. The routine treatment at the Clinic has been changed from a proprietary Sulphur preparation to Benzyl Benzoate Emulsion, and it is the belief of both medical officers and nurses that the results with the latter are superior. At the same time there has been less insistence on disinfection of clothing and bedding, except in intractable cases, and no greater difficulty in obtaining cures has been experienced in consequence. In general there appears to have been a greater willingness among the public to accept treatment.

(4) *Special Clinics.*

(a) *Dental Clinic.*—As noted above, it became necessary in June to resume the full-time services of the Senior School Dentist. The experiment which was tried at Eastwood last year, of conducting treatment sessions at the more distant schools, was repeated at

Shoeburyness. There is no doubt that the arrangement is popular with parents and results in a higher acceptance rate, but it has the drawback that conditions are not ideal for the dentist in such matters as lighting, equipment and recovery-room, and its wider application is limited by the difficulty in most existing schools of obtaining suitable premises not in close proximity to the classrooms.

(b) *Eye Clinic*.—This clinic was held as often as necessary throughout the year, usually about once a fortnight.

(c) *Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic*.—The volume of work did not necessitate the resumption of regular sessions of a special clinic. Cases continued to be referred to the Consulting Surgeon at the Out-patient Department of the Southend General Hospital.

(d) *Orthopædic Clinic*.—There was no alteration in the arrangements which have been described previously. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in the supply of children's boots and shoes of a pattern suitable for the treatment of minor defects, such as flat-foot and valgus deformities.

The Remedial Treatment Centre did not re-open, cases requiring exercises being treated in the Physiotherapy Department of the Southend General Hospital.

(e) *Speech Clinic*.—This Clinic was not re-opened.

Special Schools.

Neither the Open-air School nor the Day Special School for Mentally Defective Children was re-opened. Educable mentally defective children have either been sent to residential special schools or accommodated in special classes for backward children.

Secondary Schools.

The Secondary Schools returned from the Reception Areas in October, but it was not possible to carry out any routine medical inspection before the end of the year.

During the period of evacuation all the facilities of the School Medical Service in the Reception Areas have been open to Secondary School pupils without distinction, and at the end of the year the Committee had under consideration the advisability of extending to them either in part or in whole the facilities available for the treatment of elementary school children.

Nursery Classes.

During the year the Committee kept under review the needs of the young children of women war workers, but the evidence available did not point to a need for providing War-time Nursery Classes. They did, however, decide to provide one nursery class for children between the ages of 3 and 5 years at the Open-air School premises, and this was opened at the end of August.

More applications were received than the available thirty places, and the children were therefore selected according to individual need or maternal employment.

Admissions were spread over a period of three weeks, ten children being admitted each week, each child being examined by a Medical Officer on the day of admission. Thereafter a visit was made each week by a Health Visitor and a Medical Officer. Later the Medical Officer's visits were made monthly. Meals were supplied from the Canteen at Fairfax School, and it was arranged that when the supply situation permitted, the basic issue of milk for Nursery Class children should be two-thirds of a pint.

This class proved to be popular, and at the end of the year plans were well advanced for the opening of a similar class at Thorpe School, it being intended at a later date to make similar provision in the western part of the Borough.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During November the Health Committee instituted a special six weeks' advertising campaign to coincide with the national drive for immunisation. Three additional immunisation centres were opened, two of which were at schools partly in the occupation of the Civil Defence Casualty Services. Much valued help was again forthcoming from Head Teachers. A total of 2,243 children received a complete course of immunising injections before the end of the year.

Juvenile Employment.

One hundred and ninety-one children were examined for juvenile employment, as compared with 146 last year. Of this total only two were considered to be unfit for employment. The most frequent form of juvenile employment continues to be the distribution of newspapers.

Elementary Schools.

RETURN OF MEDICAL INSPECTIONS—YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1942.

TABLE I.

A.—Routine Medical Inspections.

(1) No. of Inspections:—						
Entrants	...	...	...	...	...	1,747
Second Age Group...	...	...	...	...	...	152
Third Age Group	...	...	...	...	...	860
					Total	2,759
(2) No. of other Routine Inspections	Nil

B.—Other Inspections.

No. of Special Inspections and Re-inspections	7,788
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TABLE II.

Classification of the Nutrition of Children Inspected during the year in the Routine Age Groups.

No. of children inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly sub-normal)		D (Bad)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2,759	437	15.8	1900	68.9	422	15.3	—	—

TABLE III.

Group I—Number of Minor Ailments (excluding uncleanliness) treated or under treatment during the year	320
Group II— <i>Treatment of Defective Vision and Squint.</i>	
Errors of refraction (including squint)	228
Other defect or disease of the eyes	4
No. of children for whom spectacles were	
(a) Prescribed	164
(b) Obtained	144
Group III— <i>Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.</i>	
Received operative treatment	104
Received other forms of treatment	13

TABLE IV.

DENTAL DEFECTS.

(1) Number of children who were	
(a) Inspected by the Dentist:	
Routine Age Groups	4,183
(b) Specials treated	625
(c) Total (routine and specials)	4,808
(2) Number found to require treatment	2,950
(3) Number actually treated	2,247
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment	2,723
(5) Half-Days devoted to: Inspection	41
Treatment	365
(6) Fillings: Permanent teeth... ..	658
Temporary teeth... ..	90
(7) Extractions: Permanent teeth	838
Temporary teeth	3,700
(8) Administration of general anæsthetics for extractions	837
(9) Other operations: Permanent teeth	59
Temporary teeth	15

TABLE V.

UNCLEANLINESS AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

(1)	Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
(2)	Total number of examinations of children in the schools by the School Nurses	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,738
(3)	Number of individual children found unclean	...	...	...	...	...	...	407
(4)	Number of children cleansed under Section 87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(5)	Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken							
	(a) under the Education Act, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
	(b) under the School Attendance Bye-laws	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

TABLE VI.

BLIND AND DEAF CHILDREN.

At the end of the year 1 Blind child and 1 Deaf child were not receiving education suitable for their special needs. Neither was in attendance at a School, but both were awaiting admission to Institutions.

